

M E M O I R S

OF THE

L I F E

OF

ROBERT ADAIR, Esq;

Omnia vincit Amor. OVID.



L O N D O N :

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some time in several instances

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND,

&c. &c. &c.

SIR,

I PRESUME to lay the following Memoirs at the feet of your Royal Highness, because they relate to a man who enjoyed your particular friendship, and
no partiality,

partiality, contributed in several instances to your pleasure and improvement, directed your benevolence and that of your Royal Consort, to many private channels, and saved the life of your brother.

I have also another reason for troubling your Royal Highness with this address; this fortunate individual contributed essentially by marriage to the comfort and credit of his life; and I cannot but congratulate you on having turned your back

on

on the follies of a trifling age, and on having been tempted by Hymen to the substantial duties of life, and to the important character of a Prince, a Peer, and a Man.

I sincerely wish your Royal Highness a long continuance of health and domestic happiness, and beg leave to subscribe myself, with every sentiment of attachment and respect,

Your Royal Highness's

Obliged, obedient,

and devoted humble Servant,

The AUTHOR.

on the folios of a tilling age, and on
having been respected by Hyman to the
substantial duties of life, and to the important
character of a Prince, a Peer, and a Man.

63 Y 11

long continuance of health and domestic
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with every sentiment of attachment
and respect,

Yours most
affectionately,
The Author.

M E M O I R S, &c.

IT has been commonly asserted by men of the world, particularly those who have been successful in life, that favourable opportunities of attaining fame and fortune regularly present themselves to us all.

That whilst the select few, blest with prudence and resolution, avail themselves of these advantages, the rest of mankind, either rendered inactive by hereditary independence, or, preferring ease and the fascinations of pleasure to the energies of exertion, suffer the wheel of Fortune to revolve unnoticed in its blind career, till the car of the *unreturning* Goddess is whirled beyond their reach.

They are then too apt to lament a deprivation of benefits which once were within their grasp, to cry out against a partial and unjust distribution of favors, when they have only themselves to blame for being buried in obscurity, while their more happy competitors, with perhaps less pretensions to merit than themselves, are gliding down the stream of fashion with honor, elegance, and wealth.

Though it is not my business in this place to examine a theory useful to the young, and flattering to the fortunate, it perhaps would not be very difficult to prove that thousands of individuals from constitution, intellect, or situation, are tied down for ever to the spot where they first drew their breath, and are prevented by insurmountable barriers from stepping forth out of the humble, but probably the happy, paths of sequestered obscurity.

It was the poetic complaint of MR. GRAY,

"That many a flow'r was doom'd to blush unseen,

"And waste its sweetness in the desert air:"

And it would be difficult to imagine a concurrence of events that would enable the hapless offspring of illicit love, to surrive the systematic parsimony and cruel policy of a workhouse, a parish nurse, and a *good* churchwarden.

Can the utmost stretch of human invention conceive it possible, without miraculous interposition, for a child born in a tin-mine, or the infant of a negro woman, broiling under a meridian Sun, and smarting under the lash of an unfeeling overseer, to conquer the malignity of fate, and struggle into eminence?

"Ah, who can tell how hard it is to climb

"Stern Fortune's height, by Prudence kenn'd from far,

"Ah, who can tell how many a soul sublime

"Hath felt the influence of a luckless star!"

The subject of the following pages, descended from parents in the middle rank of life, between poverty and riches, evinced no early symptoms of genius or of enterprise ; when a boy, his manners and habits were of an endearing and conciliating tendency ; and as he advanced to manhood, it was observed by his acquaintance, " That ADAIR had no enemies but his " passions ; that with endowments and literary ac- " quirements not above mediocrity, a person and ad- " dress pleasing, but by no means striking ; he played " the Devil with the women ! " at the same time it was hinted to him " to be more cautious in his ardent " looks, and less diligent in his kind attentions to the " young but beautiful wife of a person to whom he " was a medical pupil."

Such advice has been repeatedly given, and as often

neg-

neglected, as long as women have been enchanting, and men amorous.

Prompted by austere behaviour and watchful jealousy, the frequent companions of unequal years, the lady listened ; and in a moment of giddy rapture was undone.

They for some time indulged in guilty pleasure without interruption and without remorse ; but security, the parent of danger, threw them off their guard, and they were discovered in a situation which a husband could not behold without agony, or a wife be surpris'd in without shame ;—our young surgeon decamped from Dublin precipitately, to which place he never returned.

The injustice of the fashionable world in cases of nuptial infidelity has been often pointed out ; it has attached ridicule and a contemptible name to the husband,

band, who does not always know his crime, or rather his misfortune; and even if he happens to foresee or to know it, nine times out of ten, it is not in his power to prevent it, or, when perpetrated, to efface its disgrace.

On the contrary, the unthinking multitude side with the woman, though she has irretrievably dishonoured a husband, who has devoted his life, his liberty, and his fortune to her happiness. and cares for the man, or rather, the monster, who for a short-lived, unhallowed delight, has burst through every tie that ought to bind man to man, and, taking advantage of those dangerous intervals which unsuspecting hospitality affords, has stolen a jewel without price from the bosom of a friend, and planted a dagger in his heart.—One effect it ought ever to produce; a

debasement

debasement which no MAN can submit to with patience, no *wretch* should be guilty of without punishment.

But in this instance the injured party was pacific; he had got rid of a troublesome sharer of his joys, and notwithstanding her gross deviation, still loving his wife, he tried to hush his domestic inquietudes, as she persuaded him, or at least he endeavoured to persuade himself, that the cruel discovery he had made was a first attempt on her chastity, an attempt (however she might have yielded to the juvenile ardours of her seducer) rendered in every respect *incomplete* by the sudden and unexpected intrusion of her husband.

By a useful species of self-deception, to which we owe much of our happiness, he sat down in the opinion of the world infamous and contented, and drank without repining from that cup which had been polluted by the sip of another.

Thus was our young adventurer driven from his country, his friends, and his connections, by an accident which has doomed many men to embarrassment and obscurity for the rest of their days.

It was at this time that the writer of these Memoirs became accidentally acquainted with him; and he has often confessed that the passage from Dublin to Holyhead was the most gloomy and uninviting period he ever passed: but ANAIR did not possess one of those warm, vivid imaginations, which, led astray by Fancy, paint the scenes of life in colours unnaturally gay, and finding by experience the original very different from their imaginary picture, are too apt to sink into the opposite extreme of despondent inactivity:

“ Et quia desperent invicti membra Glyconis,

“ Corpore nodoso nolint prohibere Chiragram.”

He

He considered that although he had been seduced by the Syren Pleasure from the path of Prudence as well as Peace, he had by no means lost his road; and though he had received a temporary shock, from striking on the shoals of unlawful passion, he was not shipwrecked; the step he had made, though a false one, was by no means irrecoverable:

“The world was still before him where to chuse.”

Youth, an agreeable address, a constitution never impaired by excess, (for he was moderate even to a proverb,) and a presentiment from past experience that his attentions to the fair sex would not be unwelcome, still diffused the calm light of hope over his prospects.

Thus impelled, and thus prepared, he plunged into the metropolis, a theatre adorned with splendor to attract the vain, enjoyment to allure the voluptuous,

power to seduce ambition, and wealth to tempt the avaricious.

He, at the same time, felt a serious conviction, that the success of every candidate was rendered equivocal and precarious by the eagerness, number, and the various merits of his rivals.

It is not my design, nor would it be interesting, to dwell minutely on the difficulties which every young man must expect to meet with on first entering into any of the learned professions; I will not describe the friends he conciliated, or the enemies he subdued; it is sufficient to say, that he was effectually assisted in his pursuits, as a surgeon, by a happy concurrence of circumstances which marked his life from the moment of his landing at Holyhead, to the hour of his death, so peculiar and striking, that it procured him the name of the FORTUNATE IRISHMAN; for on his

road from that place to London, the carriage of a lady, whose equipage and attendants were splendid, being overturned, and a servant enquiring for a surgeon, he offered his services, which were accepted, bled her, and recommended an application to a slight injury on her *bip*; in short, by his tender assiduity he made such an impression on his patient, that she requested that he would accompany her in her carriage to town.

She proved to be a woman of fashion, at that time well known in the polite world, but on the wrong side of nine-and-thirty, and had been a famous demi-rep and free-thinker.

From eighteen to eight-and-thirty she had given into every wild opinion, and gratified every passion; at this juncture, being accidentally on a jaunt to Bath for the season, she met with an old peer, and by

virtue of a plump face, good spirits, and agreeable small-talk, took in the decayed rake at sixty-five.

He was flattered by her attentions, and mistaking the pertness of dotage, and the effects of a Winter-fire and hot punch for love, settled on her an enormous jointure, and, instead of an additional flannel-waistcoat, took a wife to his bosom; and when he ought to have ordered a hot pan of coals, he determined on a bedfellow; but his courage was superior to his constitution, and he soon funk under this autumnal effort.

The widow bore her loss without murmuring, and wore her weeds the customary time with decent composure; but as she advanced in years, qualms for the sins of her youth came on, her spirits and infidelity forsook her, and she made a bold leap from Spinoza and Whist to Whitfield and Coniac.

ADAIR

ADAIR often confessed she was the best patient he ever had, not merely from her generosity, which was signal, but from her pecuniary favour and patronage, being *admirably well timed*, they took place, as is very rarely the case, not a moment too soon or too late, but exactly at the instant they were most wanted.

When he took leave of her in town, she put a hundred pound bank-note into his hand, gave him a general and pressing invitation to her house, made a point of introducing him to all companies that could forward his professional advancement, left him a handsome legacy, and, what decided the fate of his life, it was at her house he first beheld LADY CAROLINE KEPPEL, daughter of the EARL OF ALBEMARLE.

The emotions of this amiable woman, at first seeing MR. ADAIR, are said to have been singular, sudden, and violent, so much so as to have been noticed by
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the company present, and to have occasioned her soon after quitting the room.

Our hero was not a likely person to suffer a behaviour so flattering to the feelings of a young man to escape his penetrating eye, more especially in a woman whose rank and family would add splendor and dignity to his future life.

We may easily believe that he neglected no means that love and opportunity could give him, to improve so sudden and (if I may be allowed the expression) so extraordinary a predilection in his favour.

An Abigail in the ALBEMARLE family, more remarkable for her cunning than her fidelity, is said to have called on Mr. ADAIR, who I believe at that time lived in Jermyn-street, to offer to carry any private note or message he had to convey; she was thanked, received a gratuity, and told that she would
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be applied to if her services were wanted: the disconcerted old woman retired with surprise; but the fact was, the industry of the Lover had outstripped the anticipation of the Abigail; he had already been favoured with two interviews, when every proof of mutual love, tenderness, and attachment, that delicate sensibility could require, and inviolable honour bestow, had mutually been given.

Amusements, a long journey, an advantageous offer, and other common modes of shaking off what was considered by the family as an improper match, were alternately tried; but in vain; the health of Lady Caroline was evidently impaired, and the family at last confessed, with a good sense that reflects honour on their understandings as well as their hearts, that it was possible to prevent, but never to dissolve an attachment; and that marriage was the honourable
and

and indeed the only alternative, that could secure her happiness and life.

This auspicious union was the seal to MR. ADAIR'S good fortune ; he was soon appointed Inspector General of all Military Hospitals, with an income adequate to the importance and responsibility of the office. He became the personal favourite of his sovereign, the friend, and almost the companion of his royal brothers, one of whom, in two instances, he apparently rescued from the jaws of death.

His practice gradually became extensive and lucrative, while the elegance of his manners, his inoffensive deportment, and characteristic gentleness, secured him the esteem and affection of the sick and infirm of all ranks.

It was observed with pleasure, that his elevation produced no other alteration in his behaviour towards his equals or his inferiors, than as it afforded him a
wider

wider field for the exercise of his philanthropy, and for practising what *ought* to be a liberal profession on the most noble and disinterested basis.

In mildness of manners he shone an illustrious contrast to the harsh severity, and rugged peevishness of some of his cotemporary practitioners.

Though I would not, if I were able, derogate from the acute precision and manual dexterity of the late Messrs. Pott and Ellis, I cannot help lamenting how grossly deficient they were in this respect; and if it were not an invidious task, I could at this moment mention living characters, high in fame, fortune, and practice, who treat their patients, particularly those in hospitals, and others of inferior rank, with a neglect and roughness, unbecoming a gentleman, a surgeon, or a man.

Hospitals are too often considered, by the ambitious

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and

and the young, as vaulting stools to leap into notice and practice; and the ladder which has enabled the aspiring candidate to climb up to the summit of his wishes, is too often kicked down with contempt.

His frugality in the expenditure of the public money, though an old-fashioned virtue in the present day, was conspicuous and exemplary; and I have known him firmly refuse applications sometimes from objects really deserving, and for purposes not improper, but unusual, lest an expensive and dangerous precedent should be established; yet he would frequently assist such persons, if really necessitous, from his own pocket.

A complaint had been made, that there was too great an intimacy between the surgeon of an hospital in the West-Indies, and the nurse, and that in consequence of it he winked at her peculations: Mr. Adair

gently

gently reprehended the young man, and hinted that if he chose to amuse himself, he had better do it any where than at home.

There had been some trifling misunderstanding on the subject of bedding; and the military surgeon in his answer observed, "That in consequence of the new regulations, he was obliged either to take half the nurse's bed, or sleep on the floor."

The same power which his army patronage afforded him of obliging his friends, from the impossibility of satisfying *all*, could not but at times create him many enemies; yet all agreed that he was the best friend of the private soldier, and of a rank of men, who may sometimes look with envy on the condition of a private soldier, I mean the unhappy subaltern, whose parents, having been mad and cruel enough to sink the whole of their son's fortune in an ensigncy or a lieu-

tenant's commission, have doomed him to exist in splendid poverty on three shillings a day.

To this unfortunate class (and I speak with gratitude and experience) he was often a generous, but at the same time a delicate, friend : their widows and children have often reaped from his good offices much effectual relief.

But whilst he was administering health and comfort to the sick and infirm, his own domestic happiness was wounded in a quarter he little expected ; alarming symptoms of a rapid decline appeared in his amiable CAROLINE : and the lovely founder of his fortune, for whom alone he wished to live, and for whom he would willingly have died, was torn for ever from his arms.

So peculiar is the nature of that disorder, at once fatal and flattering, that it was not till within a short time

time of her death, that she was at all aware of her danger : but being at last feelingly convinced of the approach of the King of Terrors, she earnestly called for her three children, bestowed on them her warmest blessings, and mingled with tears the last maternal kisses they were ever to receive ; then eagerly grasping the hand of her distracted husband, she recommended them fervently to his care and the protection of the Almighty, gently drew the well known hand towards her heart, and sunk into everlasting sleep.

In a paper deposited in her cabinet, containing some of her last injunctions and trifling bequests to her attendants, she desired, among other things, that he would, if not very disagreeable to him, wear mourning for the rest of his life.

Trifles, however unimportant to others, frequently tell our love ; and this minute request of LADY CA-

ROLINE'S,

ROLINE'S, MR. ADAIR religiously observed, except on two occasions in the year, the birth-day of a King to whom he was personally attached, and that of his royal consort.

LADY CAROLINE ADAIR, who united so rarely for her rank in life the good wife, and the tender mother, ought not to be dismissed without a reflection on what are generally called great matches.

In this instance it cannot be denied that the hymeneal torch conducted a private individual to rank and affluence, and that the union was equally auspicious to the peace and happiness of both.

But let not the young and gay be seduced by so flattering a picture; a million of instances are upon record, and daily before our eyes, where the prospect has been equally tempting; but indifference, reproach, family discord, pride, and taunts, have followed

lowed the splendid but unequal alliance: the candidate for nuptial happiness will therefore do well maturely to consider the *chances of the field*, before he passes the Rubicon.

To the eye of the prudent, cautious, provident man, a thousand objections arise against matrimony in its fairest form; yet situated as we are, in a wilderness dreary and intolerable, without female society, and in a system where evil and imperfection will creep, in spite of us, into every institution, wedlock is, after all, that state which promises the fairest for domestic bliss; and he certainly bids fairest for tasting it the most free from bitters, who selects for a wife a woman, as nearly as he is able, upon an equality with him, in person, rank, and understanding, whose fortune, *added to his own*, will furnish a competency.

Both sexes are too often misled by the dazzling but dangerous

dangerous meteors of enchanting form, immense fortune, and brilliant talent, forgetting that the means of happiness are in a moderate compass, and in the reach of mediocrity ; that genius, splendor, and beauty, so far from being essentials, too often embitter the cup, and withdraw our attention from more useful qualities, which are found by experience to bring us peace and comfort at the last ; a disinterested, tender companion, a warm friend, the augments of our happiness, and the diminisher of our woes.

It is not probable that a man of ADAM's figure in life and successful enterprise, should escape the notice of the female world, who have attached a current value to a man of intrigue, and delighting "to press the dear destroyer to their arms," are not content till they have ascertained the irresistible powers of a hero, for whom the heart of the wife, the widow, and the heiress, have alternately throbbed with desire.

But

But respect and veneration for the memory of his deceased wife, regard for his children, to whom he was an excellent father, and a love of liberty, prevented his ever again entering the matrimonial lists, though a COUNTESS, more remarkable for her wealth than her prudence, and the buxom widow of a NORFOLK BARONET, are said to have given him *very intelligible hints* on the subject.

I will not be so unjust to his character as to suppose for a moment, that in either of these instances he was *cruel*, but he certainly was not *kind*, at least in the way that they both ineffectually wished.

"Your Ladyship has one satisfaction," said LORD CHESTERFIELD to the COUNTESS, who had been rallying him unmercifully on a ridiculous embarrassment his indiscriminate gallantry had led him into, "your Ladyship has one advantage over me, I confess; the

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"same

“ same skilful hand which inflicted your wound, is
 “ both able and willing to heal.”

MR. ADAIR had assisted, both with advice and money, an officer who was wounded the war before last, on the brilliant but laborious Canada expedition ; but soon after is landing in England, either from a voyage tedious and tempestuous, or from marine salt provisions, a fever came on, his wounds burst out, and he soon fell a victim to that power whose inexorable decrees the happy and the wretched, the king as well as the slave, must implicitly obey.

The benevolent alacrity of our amiable surgeon, who possessed “ a heart to pity and a hand to bless,” merited and excited the widow’s warmest gratitude : shall we lament or exult in the weakness of human nature, if this heartfelt impression was gradually succeeded by a softer passion : yet I believe no one instance could ever be produced in which his constitutional

penchant for female society was productive either of desertion or of misery : it was his policy to pursue pleasure with the refined ardour of a rational voluptuary ; but (except in one instance, which he always lamented) never to sacrifice private peace, disturb conjugal felicity, or desert and abuse that confidence which had once made him happy.

It is neither my office or my inclination to be a defender of loose pleasures and of lawless love ; happy both here and hereafter shall that man be, who can oppose an effectual antidote to the fiery sting of passion, resist the impetuosity of desire, or find it legal gratification ; vigorous health, keen enjoyment, and undisturbed repose shall be his reward.

Yet even in this exceptionable particular, our Fortunate Irishman's conduct is well worthy the attention and imitation of many of our right honourable seducers, who fill our streets and workhouses with wretched

infants and unhappy prostitutes, a prey to disease, infamy, and death.

His acknowledged tenderness and generosity sometimes occasioned his being duped by the selfish views of artful females: one of this description, detestable for having ruined some years since two unhappy brothers, is said to have *manœuvred with the feelings* of our hero, and to have raised heavy contributions on his pocket.

I have before observed, that by the success of his professional attendance on a ROYAL DUKE, by his family connection, and the accurate œconomy of his official arrangement, he had gained the personal attachment of HIS MAJESTY.

At this moment he was informed by a friend, of the death of MR. RANBY, surgeon to the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, who has been described as “a man
“of strong passions, harsh voice, and inelegant
“manners.”

This

This interesting intelligence, with his usual good fortune, was brought to him a few hours after that gentleman's death, while he was angling at Richmond; he knew enough of the world to be convinced that delays were dangerous; and, as the King was then at Windsor, he drove instantly to that place.

Lord ——, his firm friend, was in waiting, who, as soon as he heard what had happened, immediately knew his wishes and his wants; but ADAIR was bitterly regretting the impossibility of being introduced in his fisherman's dress; his lordship immediately scratched*, and on opening the door said, "It is ADAIR, longing to pay his respects to your MAJESTY, but he has forgot his sword and bag:" "What, what," replied his MAJESTY, with his usual good-natured rapidity, "What, ADAIR, let him come in directly, he knows I am always glad to see him in any dress."

* The court signal for admission to the presence.

This

This favourite of Kings as well as of Fortune, was immediately introduced with a gentle kind of violence by his friend ; and throwing himself on his knee, he declared, " that His Majesty's goodness had already " exceeded his merits as much as it did his power of " expressing his sense of it ;" he mentioned " the " vacancy at Chelsea, touched slightly on his wish to be " amongst his favourite veterans, and concluded with " throwing himself on His Majesty's mercy."

" I promised it long ago to MIDDLETON," replied the KING, with a struggling kind of regret on his countenance ;—" but," he added with a pause, " You " know, ADAIR, I cannot refuse you."

Overpowered with gratitude and success, our pupil of good luck retired from the Royal presence, and met honest DAVID MIDDLETON on the road, driving with ineffectual haste to meet denial and disappointment.

It

It has been said that at an annual dinner at the St. Albans Tavern, poor MIDDLETON expressed himself in a gross and unguarded manner on the subject ; that an altercation with his more fortunate competitor took place ; and that the business would have terminated seriously, but for the interposition of the party present. Mr. ADAIR's friends contended, that *he* could not possibly be to blame ; for if the appointment was actually promised, it would have been very easy for one whom it ill became them to name, to have refused it ; and that if *he* had not applied, a third person might, and possibly would have obtained the prize from them both.

In answer to this, it was observed, that ADAIR well knew the place *was* promised ; that it was dishonourable to apply for it on the strength of being a favourite, and thus tempt a good-natured KING to break his word.

“ Who shall decide when doctors disagree ? ”

—the fortunate Irishman “ enjoyed a good thing,

“ and

“ and DAVID, as has been the fate of many a greater
 “ man, died with a KING in his debt.”

The appointment at Chelsea introduced him to the
 late DR. MONSEY, with whose character the public has
 of late been sufficiently acquainted, by a desultory,
 unconnected, but satirical sketch of his life.

Two characters more opposite could not easily be
 exhibited; MONSEY, with a proud consciousness of vi-
 gorous intellect, fertile powers, literary acquirement,
 and rugged merit:—ADAIR, gentle, accommodating,
 pleasant, and superficial, adorned and polished
 with gentleman-like qualities, and elegant intercourse:
 the first, securing by his predominating disposition that
 popular praise he seemed to despise; the latter, by
 humbler, but more seducing, means, collecting the
 rays of court sunshine, and graced with the smiles of
 the great and the fair: one, rich in the bullion of
 sterling genius; the other, sufficiently stored with
 the

the useful and current coin of mild manners, politeness, and attention.

The whimsical biographer of MONSEY has omitted in his industrious, if not his skilful *Knack at scraping together Anecdote*, an incident which, though trifling, points out the peculiarity of that very singular man.

“Ex ungue leonem.”

The Inspector General was one evening returning from a visit he had made to a village in the environs of London, but was stopped by an accidental thronging of carriages in a narrow part of the road; a hearse among the rest helped to stop the way.

The driver of this fable vehicle, with his finger to his nose, an arch look, and a suppressed laugh, observed to MR. ADAIR'S coachman;

“You guess, I suppose, that I have a corpse in the inside, but no such thing, I assure you; my present fare is living flesh and blood.”

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“Much

"Much good may it do him," replied the son of the whip; "I had rather *be* should be there than me; I'm sure I don't envy him his *birth*; but who the Devil is he? some queer dog, I'll warrant you."

"You are right enough *there*; 'tis the odd old Doctor at Chelsea; I overtook him about a mile back on the road; he had been too late for the stage, and tried to walk it, but was just *knock'd up*, so he would go in the inside, for the sake of lying along, and has agreed to give me a trifle to go a little out of my way, and set him down at the college;" was the answer.

The road by degrees was cleared, and the carriages moved on; but as DR. MONSEY was a neighbour, the coachman thought it his duty to relate the circumstance to his master, who immediately dispatched the footman with his compliments, and the offer of a lift to Chelsea.

It was some time before the old Boerhaavian could be *awakened*; and on the message being delivered to him,

he damn'd the man for disturbing him, thanked Mr. ADAIR, but said he was so much fatigued, that he preferred his present mode of conveyance.

At this period an express arrived in town, with advice that the DUKE of GLOUCESTER was in a state that left little for his friends to hope, and every thing to fear, adding, at the same time, that his Royal Highness had frequently expressed an earnest wish for the personal attendance of DR. JEBB and MR. ADAIR.

This Royal Exile had been an illustrious wanderer through the different courts of Europe, with health, spirits, and finances, as some have said, not at all improved by certain domestic ties; but this suggestion I have ever listened to with doubt, as it would imply such a total absence of principle, such a base complication of ingratitude and unkindness, in a breast which I hope is as good as it is fair, that I cannot suffer myself for a moment to give it credit.

On this occasion His Majesty's brotherly affection, negligent of the formalities of etiquette, burst through a coldness which had for some time subsisted between them, and sending instantly for the two gentlemen, he pressed them, as they valued his happiness or favour, to fly to his brother's assistance.

The physician and surgeon left London at an hour's notice, and reached their patient in a space of time so short, that I should be suspected of dealing in the marvellous if I related it.

Their presence, their medicines, their attention, but above all, certain conciliatory assurances from St. James's, proved successful and restorative; the Prince amended every hour, and his recovery was called at the time, a Resurrection Piece, by MESSRS. ADAIR and JEBB.

On their return they received ample remuneration, and the latter (whose fame and success I ever thought far greater than his deserts) was created a Baronet, an ho-

nour which his associate, with equal propriety and good sense, begged leave to decline.

On this professional voyage, or a former one, Mr. ADAIR had been introduced, I was going to say to His Holiness, but I mean the good, the enlightened GAN-
GANELLI, who, forgetting, in the warmth of attachment, an intervening channel, used to call him emphatically, his favourite Englishman.

He was frequently admitted to private audiences by this PROTESTANT POPE, and sent him, by request, some curious anatomical preparations for his museum, a branch of study which had employed and amused this good churchman for many a solitary hour in the humble retirement of his cell; that cell which he probably had still adorned, had he not ascended with reluctant steps the dangerous throne of the Vatican.

Thus, as years advanced on the subject of these Memoirs, he found himself blest in friendship, fame,
family,

family, and fortune: his only son returned with solid acquirements, confirmed by the rigid discipline of a German university, improved by travel, and closely united in blood, as well as principles, with the best friends of his King and country; and one of his daughters, whose looks "would tempt an anchorite to love," happily married.

Nor was the soft solace of female society wanting to soothe his private hours; the little Nightingale, with lips not only made to speak; the lively relict of a military declaimer; and the widow, or deserted wife, of a *luxuriant* branch of the Fox family; and a lady, who, from the bounties of nature, has not the least occasion for the artificial embellishment of cork, alternately co-operated to make him happy.

He had sometimes been rallied, because *latterly* his fair favourites were not eminently beautiful.

"I acknowledge it," he would reply in a good-natured,
confidential

confidential moment, " I acknowledge it, but the good
 " creatures make up in temper, mildness, and attention,
 " for their personal deficiencies: formerly, and perhaps I
 " had a right, I was nicer; but after five-and-forty, a
 " man must not expect to have the prime of the market;
 " besides, your great beauties are so hard to get at, so trou-
 " blesome to retain, and, in general, from the conviction
 " of their being handsome, so little qualified to please in
 " other respects, that I every day find more and more rea-
 " son to rest satisfied with the present objects of my wishes."

Reason and experience daily confirm the truth of this
 theory.

While " Health's purple glow, and Beauty's rosy beam"
 irradiate the female countenance, we look over or forget
 the uncultivated understanding, and are content to gaze
 with rapture on the eye, the lip, or the bosom; but when
 twice twenty winters have shrivelled the *once* tempting
 fruit, the fair insensible, with a decayed body, and un-
 improved

improved mind, sinks unnoticed to tea and scandal, cards, and insipidity; whilst her homely companion, whom she had so often insulted with her superior charms, rich in literature and good sense, attracts, delights, and instructs.

Could I be permitted, in the choice of a wife, to exert the power of a magician, the companion of my future life, from her birth, and during her childhood and education, should possess rather a disagreeable, though a well-proportioned and healthy exterior; but when marriage-rites had made her mine, the omnipotence of my talisman should be exerted, to give beauty and expression to her form.

Old age had now made rapid strides on the constitution of this child of fortune; and a sudden attack of a most alarming nature "feelingly told him what shadows we are, "and what shadows we pursue;" a truth which however

we may flight it by neglect, or drown it in dissipation, will sooner or later force itself irresistibly on our minds.

Contrary, however, to the expectations of his friends, he recovered; and confessed that Providence added considerably to the bliss of restored health, by putting it in his power to exercise his benevolence with singular efficacy and success.

It was in an instance which, rousing every exertion of philanthropy, tenderness, and friendship, powerfully excited the sympathy and attention of the public; and it is with pleasure I add, that his ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, and the DUKE OF CUMBERLAND, kindly seconded MR. ADAIR'S amiable interference.

MR. HATER, a commissary, and I believe of the Pay Office, a gentleman of pleasing manners, genteel connection, and competent income, but not of a solid understanding, had unhappily been infected by the dissipating

habits

G

madness

madness of the times, and a dread of pronouncing with firmness the monosyllable No! that fear which makes and continues us fools half our lives.

Misled by this "extravagant and erring spirit," he had formed habits, and indulged in expences inconsistent with his rank and fortune.

Wine, play, a round of amusements, and certain chimerical hopes of advancing his interest and fortune, served for a little time to buoy up his wounded spirit.

But evils which we do not choose to meet and oppose with spirit and resolution, cannot be evaded by folly and flight; his expences increased as his affairs grew desperate; his friends, or his own ill founded expectations deceived him, and he retired with a smile on his countenance, but mortal chagrin at his heart, to one of those nocturnal circles which have been called "little earthly pandemoniums," where, how bitter soever our disappointments, however we may have been scouted or insulted by the falsehood,

falsehood, rebukes, or ill treatment of mankind, we are sure to meet with those who can sympathize with, and keep us in countenance, by jollity, by soothing, or by applause.

The card and die are the happy signal that level every distinction, and mix in one confused chaotic mass, the peer and horse-jockey, the beggar and nabob, the gambler and the heir.

He passed part of the night in one of these splendid receptacles of desperate adventure, which, in the streets of the metropolis, attract, by their magnificence, the wonder and the sigh of the indignant passenger.

At the usual time, and in the usual mode, he took his leave of those he was to see no more, exhibiting in his manner and appearance nothing peculiar, guided probably by the timid caution of artful disguise, which so often accompanies deep and fatal designs.

He

He repaired to his own house, no longer the seat of domestic bliss and endearment; Mrs. Hesse, from the lateness of the hour, had retired to rest; he locked himself into his own room, and in that phrenzy which so often accompanies hopeless pecuniary distress, and blasted irretrievable prospects, put an end to his existence, "snatching from God's right-hand the instruments of death."

I will not dwell on the situation of a wife thus at once bereft, by a shocking catastrophe, of husband, of friend, and of fortune; the struggle was too powerful for her tender frame, and I believe she was for some time in a state of distraction.

BUT ADAIR, the comfort of the friendless, flew on the wings of mercy and pity, snatched her from the afflicting scene, sheltered her under the hospitable roof of his retirement at Chelsea, and applied every consolation that tranquillity and the lenient hand of friendship could bestow;

bestow; he was in every sense the good Samaritan, the father, and the friend.

"For this one deed be all his faults forgiven."

The recording angel shall pen it down, God and all good men shall own it.

Who would not wish, when summoned before the penetrating eye of his Maker, to have such an action displayed in his favour: let us then bring home this reflection to ourselves.

Few of us have opportunities of acting conspicuous parts in life; we cannot *all* be heroes, statesmen, sages, philosophers, and poets; but we *all* have it in our power to fulfil the duties of private life, to diminish in a greater or less degree the bulk of human misery, and to diffuse the soft blessings of ease and comfort to the unhappy, the sick, and unfortunate; or, if modes of exerting active benevolence do not con-

stantly occur, we may be passively good every moment of our lives, by abstaining from violence and passion, from folly and from crime.

It was not long after this godlike task of blessing, that MR. ADAIR's complaints returned, attended with fatal symptoms, which, after he had languished a few weeks, put a period to his life, in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

This short memorial of a man whom I loved and lament, though not fertile in rare incident, or surprising event, may yet afford an interesting and useful lesson to mankind.

The pupil of irresistible impulse, seduced early in life by temptation and opportunity, into rash and unwarrantable conduct, may learn that such accidents, if afterwards properly guarded against, are by no means insurmountable obstacles to success.

How many have sunk under the mortification of early imprudence into supineness, indifference and despair: yet the subject of these pages was driven by a culpable obliquity to seek, and successfully to seek, both fame and fortune.

The man of moderate capacity, without genius or brilliant attainments, may also peruse these Memoirs with advantage; he may be taught that pre-eminence and fortune, for which we all are struggling through life, may be acquired by humbler talents, equally in the reach of us all; unremitting industry and attention, gentleness, civility, and a watchfulness (easily improved by habit,) to turn the little accidents of life to good account.

A source of comfort may also be deduced from this hasty work, which I mention with pleasure, as it reflects *some* credit on political systems and measures,

fures, which I have not *often* been in the habit of applauding.

It proves that personal merit, in some instances, prevails with Kings and the favourites of Kings, independent of the corrupt springs of court finesse, party cabal, and parliamentary intrigue.

MR. ANAIR was never tempted by these considerations to depart from the strict path of duty; but, passing firm and undeviated through the bewildering mazes of office, was a rare instance, particularly during the violence and heat which attended the trial of the late VISCOUNT KEPPEL, his wife's brother, an independent courtier, and an uninfluenced placeman.

F I N I S